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canoe, and reached Eginé, at a distance of about 35 miles, the next day. Starting again on horseback in a north-easterly direction, through forest-land extensively cleared, they reached the village of Omu, where a quarrel between one of the porters and a native nearly caused a serious affray. This was, however, prevented by the presence of mind and judgment of the officers in charge of the Expedition. The party arrived at Odé in the afternoon of the same day.

Odé is about 26 miles N.N.E. of Eginé, and is surrounded by a wall about 12 miles in circumference. The houses are substantially built of red clay. The natives are a remarkably fine tall race. Their religion is gross fetichism; and both human beings and animals are occasionally sacrificed. Their principal food is maize, which is produced in great abundance, and is sold for about 2*d.* per bushel.

3. *Travels in Western Africa.* By W. WINWOOD READE, Esq.

MR. READE left England in December, 1861, and arrived at the Gaboon on the 13th February. He first made a six days' excursion into the Shekani country on the right bank of the river. In March he went to Corisco, and thence to Bapuka, where he remained about a month. Passing on to the Muni, he followed the main stream for about 30 miles, and then branched off by a tributary which led him to the spurs of the Sierra del Crystal. In May he ascended the Gaboon, and discovered the rapids in the heart of the Crystal Mountains. He then went to the Fernando Vaz, as far as Ngambi. After a visit to Prince's and St. Thomas's Islands, he sailed in a Portuguese schooner to Loanda. Here he was hospitably received by Mr. Gabriel, a Fellow of this Society, who has, however, since fallen a victim to the climate. After a trip to the interior as far as Ambaka, he sailed to the Cape de Verde Islands, whence he crossed to Goree early in December; and after visiting the Senegal, the Casamanza, and the Gambia, he finally returned to Europe in February last.

Mr. Reade made inquiries at Loanda, respecting Dr. Livingstone's supposition that the Quango joins the Zaire, and he found that it received unanimous confirmation. But there seems to be some doubt about the position of Matiamvo; the Secretary of Benguela informed him that the kingdom known by that name is situated to the south-east of that colony, and that a more powerful prince named Domba reigns to the east of Matiamvo. This was confirmed by the Commandant of Quellengues, a Portuguese fort in the interior. Mr. Reade saw at Ambaka a runaway slave of Matiamvo's,

who told him that the name of that tribe was the Boloni. The country itself, he said, was without hills or high trees like those at Ambaka; that the animals found there were lions, elephants, leopards, jackals, giraffes, wild cattle, and small monkeys.

Kikassa, a great river, is said to run from the rising sun to the north; another river called the Matiamvo joins it, coming from the west and running east; another large river, called Rû, passes close to Matiamvo's palace, and runs east and west; and in this river are hippopotami, while in the others are only crocodiles.

Mr. Reade in the main confirmed M. du Chaillu's account of the country and people.

The PRESIDENT said, the Paper showed that Mr. Winwood Reade was an enterprising traveller, who had visited many parts of Africa, but not, as he modestly said, as a scientific man. He had certainly brought before us some remarkable facts and statements respecting the natives. With regard to the concluding observations, he was happy to hear what Mr. Reade had said of M. du Chaillu. M. du Chaillu was about to embark on a new voyage to that country which he had explored on a former occasion under considerable difficulties; and he hoped to go out now more as a man of science than he did before, taking instruments with him, so as to determine some latitudes and longitudes. M. du Chaillu would be very happy if Mr. Reade or some other Englishman would accompany him.

CAPTAIN BEDINGFELD, R.N., said, the only interest attached to his Paper would be its connection with our new colony of Lagos. He went to Porto Nuovo first of all, then to Abeokuta and Odé, in order to explain our reasons for the cession and to conciliate the different chiefs in the neighbourhood. He was particularly struck with the immense amount of industry of the natives. The whole distance they travelled, as far as they could see, the corn-fields on both sides were beautifully cultivated. They passed through one village entirely of blacksmiths; the whole village was taken up with forges, and the men were manufacturing the country hoes from native iron. They were received very kindly at all these places, and they succeeded in getting the objects they had in view carried out, one of which was to establish a market at Eginé for the trade from the Ijebu country. On their return they had a palaver at this market, and it was opened for trade. All these places had since been destroyed, and he was afraid that the feelings of the king in our favour had been very much modified. With regard to the bar at Lagos, when they first went in they had some difficulty, but afterwards ships came in frequently and with very little trouble. He had since heard by the last mail that another passage of $3\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms had been opened out, so that he believed there would be very little difficulty in merchant-ships getting in. Trade was, however, at present entirely stopped on account of the wars; and those wars would, in his opinion, go on until the slave-trade was abolished.

MR. CRAWFORD asked if the King of Abeokuta or his prime minister could read or write, or whether Captain Bedingfeld knew any negro who could read or write.

CAPTAIN BEDINGFELD, R.N., replied, the king certainly could not, but he knew several negroes who could read and write.

MR. CRAWFORD thought that they must be remarkable, then; for, though the natives had been in communication with Europe three hundred years, it was a very rare thing for a negro to learn to read and write.

M. DU CHAILLU said he was about to undertake another journey in the part of the country which he visited last, up the Fernando Vaz river. He had at

length succeeded in getting a vessel, and it would require two months to prepare his outfit, which would be composed of baggage amounting to from fifty to one hundred tons. He intended to make a settlement at the mouth of one of the rivers, leave one or two white men there, and then go into the interior and explore. He would not promise too much to the Royal Geographical Society, for he might meet with impediments; but he sincerely hoped he should be able to reach a thousand miles, to stay there a time, and study the country, and then return. If life and health should be spared, he hoped to be able to write another account of his explorations. This time he should have more wisdom and more knowledge to apply to the task; still he was sure the book would be full of shortcomings, for which he knew the English people would forgive him. Although they did not agree on the gorilla question, he thanked Mr. Reade for the kind words he had spoken in his favour; and he also thanked the members of the Royal Geographical Society for the feelings they had always expressed towards him. He should work hard, and try to deserve their continued approbation.

The PRESIDENT stated that the next sitting would be on the 11th of May.

Twelfth Meeting, Monday Evening, May 11th, 1863.

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, K.C.B., PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

PRESENTATIONS.—*J. A. Oldling, John Ritchie, and H. Bayley, Esqrs., were presented upon their Election.*

ELECTIONS.—*Rear-Admiral Horatio Thomas Austin, C.B.; Lieutenant I. Sale; Alexander Baring; James N. Dick; William James Farrer; Patrick Douglas Hadow; John Henry Mackenzie; William Simpson, and J. A. Wright, Esqrs., were elected Fellows.*

ACCESSIONS.—‘Notes on Ceylon and its Affairs during a period of thirty-eight years, ending in 1855,’ by James Steuart of Colpetty; ‘A Vacation Tour at the Antipodes, through Victoria, Tasmania, New South Wales, Queensland, and New Zealand, in 1861-62,’ by B. A. Heywood, Esq., M.A.; the ‘Anthropological Review’ for May, 1863; Map of British Columbia; Admiralty Charts and Ordnance Maps.

EXHIBITIONS.—Various curiosities from Australia were exhibited by Mr. Middleton, consisting of fishing-nets, necklaces, girdles, &c., of native manufacture, geological specimens, and sundry relics of Burke and Wills; also a lithographed view of a design for a National Memorial Obelisk to His late Royal Highness the Prince Consort, by George Peacock, F.R.G.S.

The PRESIDENT, in opening the business of the evening, said that there were no special papers to be read respecting one of the most adventurous and successful journeys that had ever been accomplished in Africa. He alluded to the expedition which the Society, aided by the Government, had sent out under Captains Speke and Grant, to proceed from Zanzibar into the interior of Africa, with the view to discover, if possible, the sources of the Nile. After very con-